

Mar. 8, 1949

RESTRICTED**AMERICAN EMBASSY**

No. 212

Quito, March 8, 1949

**SUBJECT: Ecuadoran Position at the Havana Conference
on Dependent Territories.**

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of December 1, 1948, 1:15 p.m., instructing all diplomatic missions in the American Republics to ascertain the reaction of the respective Governments to the Department's views on the American Committee on Dependent Territories for which provision was made in Resolution 33 of the Bogota Conference.

The matter was taken up orally and in memorandum form with the Foreign Minister whose belated response was received today in Foreign Office memorandum no. 32 of March 2, 1949. The memorandum states that:

the Ecuadoran delegate in the American Committee on Dependent Territories had been instructed to adopt a conciliatory position between the divergent viewpoints on this subject at the forthcoming conference at Havana "without sacrificing the duties and principles which, by unanimous vote, were created in San Francisco by the special system for which provision was made in Chapters 11, 12 and 13 of the United Nations Charter";

the Minister of Foreign Affairs "is in agreement with the Government of the United States in that the norms of liberty and independence of the countries of the Western Hemisphere should at this moment be fully observed", and is of the opinion that "any action tending to undermine or destroy their democratic institutions and the basic premise of their continental unity would constitute a danger of opposition to their political and international system".

Judging by previous experiences with the Foreign Minister, the foregoing may be translated as signifying

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Despatch no. 212, March 15, 1949, Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

- 2 -

that Ecuador will act at the Havana Conference in accordance with its own unspecified criteria, probably along the lines of at least passive support for the claims of Guatemala and the Argentine against Great Britain.

Respectfully yours,

John F. Simmons
John F. Simmons

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Consulate General Guayaquil

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